

Erosion, tidal flooding blamed on heavy surf

Published in the Asbury Park Press 11/16/04

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The latest spell of elevated tides and heavy surf has caused some erosion and tidal flooding at the Jersey Shore, according to officials.

The ocean washed out sand from the north side of groins at 34th and 116th streets in Long Beach Township on Thursday and Friday, preventing vehicles on the beach from going through those areas, said Commissioner Robert A. Palmer.

"What (we've) got to do then, obviously, is when the low tides come back, try and steal more sand (from near the water's edge) and fill in those holes," Palmer said. "That way, (people) can get by with a machine or a truck if you have to."

The township also had "some pretty serious" flooding on Long Beach Boulevard during high tide, and only the center lanes could be used on Friday, he said.

The flooding and erosion follows a nearly unprecedented 10-day string of elevated tides last month that caused some severe beach erosion on Long Beach Island and moderate erosion elsewhere along the oceanfront, according to officials and experts.

"Although this weekend's impacts can be categorized as minor, the coastline remains extremely vulnerable to future storms," said Elaine Makatura, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, in an e-mail to the Press. "DEP inspection staff is continually monitoring critical areas for additional damage."

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